



City of Arts & Innovation

News Release

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Online eComment Feature Expands, Gives Public More Options for Input

System that allows public to comment on City Council agenda now includes boards and commissions

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – The City of Riverside’s online eComment system, which gives members of the public an opportunity to weigh in on issues facing the City Council even if they cannot attend the meeting, has expanded to allow for input even earlier in the process.

Riverside community members have been able to use the system to comment on issues scheduled for debate at City Council meetings and Council committees for more than a year. That service now has been extended to City boards and commissions, where issues often receive their first public airing.

“The eComment feature is an excellent way for members of our community to get involved and let us know how they feel about different policy topics in our city,” Mayor Rusty Bailey said. “We understand that not everyone can make it to City Council or other committees, so being able to give your input on a computer, tablet or smart phone is a great opportunity for our residents to engage in the decision-making process.”

City Clerk Colleen Nicol said the new feature has the potential to get more residents involved in City matters.

“The Mayor and City Council invite their constituents to step up participation in public meetings through eComment, which is expanding beyond City Council meetings to include boards and commissions,” Nicol said. “eComments deepen the scope of the deliberative process before decisions are made that affect Riverside residents, businesses and neighborhoods.”

Previously, constituents were able to express opinions and comment only on City Council agenda and Council committee items starting the Friday before each Tuesday’s meeting. The eComment feature, which is available via a blue click-through link on the city’s website calendar, now includes boards and commissions as well.

Constituents will be able to express their thoughts and choose to support or oppose agenda items until two hours before each meeting begins. At that point, the eComment link will be turned off so that comments may be printed for members of the Council, boards or commissions and made part of the official record.

All residents with a smartphone, tablet, laptop, or desktop computer can use the eComment feature and are invited to view it at riversideca.gov under “Meetings Calendar and Agendas” in the “New and Noteworthy” box on the left side of the page.